

# APPENDIX A

## EQAC RESOLUTIONS AND POSITIONS DECEMBER, 2003 THROUGH OCTOBER, 2004

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# **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **Resolution regarding the Fairfax County Park Authority Natural Resource Management Plan**

**December 2, 2003**

**Whereas**, the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is charged with the stewardship and management of some 8.7% of the total land area of Fairfax County; and

**Whereas**, much of this land consists of and/or contains some of our County's most precious and irreplaceable natural resources; and

**Whereas**, the Fairfax County Park Authority has developed and just announced a Natural Resource Management Plan to guide the stewardship and management of these resources; and

**Whereas**, EQAC has long advocated creation of such a plan by the Park Authority; and

**Whereas**, the Plan outlines an approach to deal comprehensively with the full range of natural resources issues and prepare definitive guidance for their assessment and ultimate management and stewardship; and

**Whereas**, the Plan must have appropriate budgetary funding allocated if it is to be more than mere noble philosophy; and

**Whereas**, the Plan particularly addresses the 2004-2008 time period, but should become a permanent and integral part of the FCPA planning and management process; now therefore

**Be it resolved**, that the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) finds the Plan to be soundly based and comprehensive and commends both the Plan and the staff who developed it; and

**Be it further resolved**, EQAC strongly recommends that the plan and the processes that it outlines be promptly implemented and that funding for these purposes be promptly allocated and placed at the top of the list of FCPA budget priorities; and

**Be it finally resolved**, that EQAC strongly recommends that the plan and periodic updates be adopted as an integral part of the overall FCPA planning and management process.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **RESOLUTION REGARDING LIGHTING ORDINANCE HANDBOOK**

**December 2, 2003**

**WHEREAS**, in its last Annual Report on the Environment EQAC noted that the new Outdoor Lighting Ordinance was nearing completion and recommended that also needed were a simple brochure for the average homeowner and a more detailed technical brochure for architects and builders; and

**WHEREAS**, the new Ordinance was adopted on June 17, 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, staff in the Zoning Administration Division immediately began to develop the recommended guidance materials and were able to combine both versions into a 16 page booklet to serve the needs of both homeowner and development communities; and

**WHEREAS**, this booklet was developed with such efficiency that it was released in September, 2003; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Environmental Quality Advisory Council commends Jack Reale and Lorrie Kirst of the Zoning Administration Division for their outstanding and highly professional efforts in designing and producing with great dispatch the Guide to Fairfax County's Outdoor Lighting Standards.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

### PERENNIALITY OF BURKE'S SPRING BRANCH

March 10, 2004

At its March 10, 2004 meeting, the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council discussed a rezoning application along Burke's Spring Branch in McLean and adopted the following position regarding this stream:

*"Based on all evidence presented to EQAC to date, this stream is perennial and ought to be protected."*

# FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 31, 2004

Board of Supervisors  
County of Fairfax  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035

Dear Chairman Connolly and Members of the Board:

At the March 10, 2004 meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC), EQAC authorized me to prepare comments on its behalf regarding potential budget cuts for the FY 2005 budget based on previous positions that EQAC has taken regarding the County's environmental efforts. These comments have been reviewed and endorsed by a majority of EQAC members.

In his February 23, 2004 Memorandum to the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive provided a list of options for potential budget cuts for Board consideration. There are 146 options listed for possible cuts. I note that seven of these possible cuts impact programs that EQAC has recommended to the Board (both in the past and now). In the last two years, in presenting the Annual Report on the Environment, I expressed concern to the Board about the County's budget problems and the possibility that needed environmental programs would be impacted. These options given up for consideration by the County Executive, if enacted by the Board, would indeed set back environmental programs (especially those dealing with water quality) in the County. I would therefore recommend that the Board not adopt the following options for cuts: 38, 39, 105, 110, 111, 140, and 143.

In the paragraphs below, I give abstracts from the County Executive's *Summary of FY 2005 Options* with the option number, the reduction, the money that would be saved by the reduction, and comments contained in the summary. I follow up each abstract with comments that reflect EQAC's past positions.

- 38      Public Works and Environmental Services Stormwater  
         Eliminate 1 limited term Senior Engineering Inspector  
         \$42,970  
         Reduces the quality control, oversight and data collection of the stormwater  
         management programs

Option 38 eliminates an inspector and directly impacts the County's ability to monitor stormwater controls. In past years when the County had budget problems, many inspector positions were eliminated. This led to increasing problems with stormwater controls in the County with increasing silt runoff. Water quality in our streams was degraded. EQAC recommended that the positions for inspectors be increased and this was done. However, EQAC remains concerned about stormwater control measures. Decreasing the number of inspector positions will lower the County's ability to maintain

water quality thereby reducing the County's ability to comply with the Clean Water Act and Virginia's commitments to ChesBay.

- 39      Public Works and Environmental Services Stormwater  
         Eliminate 1 Geographic Information Spatial Analyst 1  
         \$44,675  
         Reduces capability for mapping infrastructure inventory, impacting agency compliance with stormwater quality permit.

Option 39 is similar to Option 38 in impact. The mapping of infrastructure is essential for managing stormwater on a watershed basis and will lead to increases in efficiency. Elimination of this position will therefore lower the County's ability to maintain water quality thereby reducing the County's ability to comply with the Clean Water Act and Virginia's commitments to ChesBay.

- 105     Contributions  
         Eliminate funding to Northern VA Conservation Trust  
         \$250,602  
         Elimination of funding for this contributory, which works to preserve open space in Fairfax County (508 acres to date) would require other County agencies to assume more responsibility for identifying and acquiring open space.

This public-private partnership came into being due to a long-standing EQAC recommendation. EQAC had noted that groups such as The Nature Conservancy used easements on private lands as a tool for environmental preservation on ecologically sensitive lands. EQAC recommended that Fairfax County also pursue such tactics. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) has protected ecologically sensitive lands through a number of means, including easements. A number of easements have been in stream valleys, therefore protecting against degradation of the stream's waters. Continuation of this program will improve the County's ability to comply with the Clean Water Act and Virginia's commitments to ChesBay. This is an activity that needs to continue.

- 110     Police  
         Eliminate Geese Peace Program  
         \$35,140  
         Eliminates single program in County available to handle geese management.

Resident Canada Geese have become an increasing problem in the County. A major negative impact of their increasing numbers is their contribution to fecal coliform pollution in the waters of Fairfax County's streams. For example, twenty-four percent of the fecal coliform pollution in Accotink Creek (an impaired stream due to excess fecal coliform) is attributed to geese. EQAC has supported the Geese Peace program as an effective means of managing the geese population. Absent this program, I would expect to see more increases in the geese population and increasing loads of fecal coliform

pollution in Fairfax County streams. For the small amount of money involved, eliminating this program does not make sense.

- 111 Police  
Eliminate Deer Management Program  
\$77,000  
Eliminates single program in County to handle deer management.

Overpopulation of deer in Fairfax County has been a major problem leading to increased deer-automobile collisions and destruction of habitat in the County's parks. The deer will eat everything within reach as can be evidenced in the parks. Overpopulation also leads to deaths of deer due to starvation and disease. As a result, other species that rely on the vanished understory have declined and will disappear. The deer management program has started to bring the deer population under control and has been strongly endorsed by EQAC. Without this program, the deer population will rebound, and more environmental damage to the County's parks will occur. Additionally, the number of deer-automobile collisions will increase. Given the injuries and fatalities that will probably occur as a result of these collisions, eliminating this program does not make sense.

- 140 Capital Projects  
Eliminate land acquisition reserve  
\$1,000,000  
Eliminates all FY2005 Advertised Budget Plan capital project funding

EQAC has commended the Board for their foresight in acquiring ecologically sensitive lands with reserves. Environmentally sensitive land that is not developed is becoming scarce in the County. Therefore, as the opportunity arises, such land should be protected by outright purchase or through easements, either directly by the BOS or through NVCT. EQAC recommends that such activities continue to receive full support.

- 143 Capital Projects  
Reduce watershed project funding  
\$800,000  
Reduces FY2005 Advertised Budget Plan capitol funding for VPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Discharge Permit required by the Clean Water Act. This reduced funding level will delay completion of watershed master planning and implementation of improvements.

EQAC has endorsed the watershed planning project since its inception. Prior to the County starting this project, EQAC had pointed out the need for planning at a watershed level. Due to the large amount of developed land in Fairfax County, and due to the past absence of watershed planning, Fairfax County is now playing catch up in regard to this issue. This is an essential program that should not be reduced.

As you can see, each of these proposed reductions is counter to past EQAC recommendations. I strongly urge the Board not to eliminate or reduce the above

programs. We should not allow the geese and deer populations to increase with their accompanying problems. The other programs above either directly or indirectly impact water quality in the County and the County's ability to comply with the Clean Water Act and Virginia's commitment to ChesBay.

Over the past years, the Board has accepted a number of EQAC's recommendations that have led to improved environmental quality in the County. EQAC has commended the Board for these actions. I hope that you will not reverse some of the progress that the County has made in the environmental area. I'm sure that EQAC would be pleased to consult further with you on these issues.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert McLaren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "McLaren" clearly distinguishable.

Robert McLaren  
At-Large member of EQAC



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION REGARDING  
FAIRFAX COUNTY'S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

April 14, 2004

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) requires all jurisdictions to prepare a 20 year integrated solid waste management plan by July 1, 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has developed a Solid Waste Management Plan with stakeholders from throughout the solid waste system, reviewed current waste activities and programs, projected potential waste generation for the next 20 years and analyzed the gaps between the current system and the future needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has developed a Solid Waste Management Plan that is in-depth, and incorporates current knowledge regarding solid waste management principles along with future projections of population and business growth;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Environmental Quality Advisory Council congratulates the staff on their work on this major undertaking; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that EQAC recommends stronger language on the increased use of recycling in multiunit residences as well as expanding the number of businesses that are required to recycle from those with 200 people or more to those businesses with 50 people or more; finally

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that EQAC supports the Solid Waste Management Plan.

# FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 12, 2004

Staff and Board  
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District  
12055 Government Center Parkway  
Suite 905  
Fairfax, VA 22035

We, the members of the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council, wish to congratulate you on receiving “double honors” from the National Association of Conservation Districts by winning a District Outreach Award to recognize the *Conservation Currents* newsletter and your Web site.

We are well aware of and applaud your efforts at community outreach and education. Your *Conservation Currents* newsletter and your Web site are both excellent examples of your outreach efforts, and we share the views of the award judges regarding the “amazing wealth of information” that you provide and regarding the quality of presentation of this information.

Again, congratulations on the award. It is well-deserved.

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(Signed by Council members)

## **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **RESOLUTION FOR RECYCLING PROGRAMS WITHIN FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**June 9, 2004**

WHEREAS, The Fairfax County Public School system produces a lot of waste, predominately paper waste; and

WHEREAS, Countless studies have demonstrated that there is a negative impact of waste on the environment, whether from the creation of the products being wasted or from the actual consumption of those products—for example, the production of excess paper products means that an excess of trees were harvested and there is excess paper in trash dumps; and

WHEREAS, Students from some Fairfax County public schools recognize the importance of recycling and show an interest in, with limited success, creating recycling programs within their own schools; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County would benefit from an effective system-wide recycling program in the public schools; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County public schools have minimal recycling opportunities available, but have not been effective apart from the efforts made by individual teachers and/or administrators; and

WHEREAS, the actual implementation of the recycling program at the school level needs to be improved to include effective means of collecting and disposing of recyclable materials; now therefore

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that EQAC recommends that the Fairfax County Public School system develop a plan to ensure the implementation of a cost effective recycling program at the individual school level, including a system to enforce the recycling procedures;

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED that EQAC recommends that this effort involve students to ensure that an environmental club or service club manages the recycling program instituted within the school, so that students can participate in a recycling program and not only learn the importance of recycling first hand but also form healthy habits of recycling, which could expand to their homes; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that EQAC recommends that the Fairfax County Schools create, both countywide and at individual schools, a volunteer panel of students, teachers and the maintenance staff to monitor the recycling program and report the overall progress to the school system and to EQAC.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING  
THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONSERVATION TRUST  
September 8, 2004**

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County and The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) have been working together in a public-private partnership since June 20, 2001, that has facilitated 25 easements and 4 fee simple ownerships totaling 512 acres across Fairfax County; and

**WHEREAS**, The NVCT has established a sustaining program with dedicated staff working throughout Fairfax County and Northern Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, NVCT has a public outreach program that has generated 977 hours of volunteer conservation activities and 1,143 hours of environmental education over the last three years in Fairfax County; and

**WHEREAS**, NVCT has leveraged the Fairfax County commitment to generate grants in excess of the funds contributed by the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Memorandum of Understanding between the NVCT and Fairfax County has recently expired and is being managed as a year-to-year agreement that does not provide a commitment to a long term partnership nor a cost of living adjustment to NVCT staff; and

**WHEREAS**, It was recommended by the New Millennium Occoquan Watershed Task Force that Fairfax County: "Establish a more proactive easements program that provides for outreach efforts to owners of land in the Occoquan Watershed that contains environmentally sensitive resources, particularly where these resources would not otherwise be protected by regulation;" and

**WHEREAS**, Creating and maintaining a healthy environment within the Occoquan Watershed is vitally important to the health of the citizens of Fairfax County and consistent with the goals and objectives of the recently adopted plan of the Board of Supervisors entitled "Environmental Excellence for Fairfax County: A 20-year Vision;" and

**WHEREAS**, The NVCT has a proven record for acquiring easements and has provided a proposal for dedicated resources that will focus on the Occoquan Watershed;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Environmental Quality Advisory Council strongly recommends that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NVCT prepared by the County Attorney's Office for an additional three to five years and review the MOU in like-year increments to provide the NVCT a commitment to continue their excellent work in Fairfax County; and
2. Fund an expansion of this partnership in the FY'06 Budget to provide more resources to focus on conservation and environmental education in the Occoquan Watershed.

# FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 10, 2004

Board of Supervisors  
County of Fairfax  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035

Dear Chairman Connolly and Members of the Board:

It is our understanding that the Board will be considering the allocation of \$2,000,000 in additional funds to support environmental initiatives during its FY 2004 Carryover Review on Monday, September 13. At its September 8 meeting, the Environmental Quality Advisory Council, by a unanimous vote of members present, authorized me to write this letter of support for such an allocation of carryover funds. There are projects that are critical to preserving the County's environment and that would support the Board's environmental plan ("Environmental Excellence for Fairfax County: a 20-year Vision"), and the allocation of carryover funds for the purpose of addressing these needs should be strongly supported.

Thank you for your consideration of environmental initiatives during the Carryover Review.

Sincerely,

[Signed]

Stella Koch, Chairman  
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

